तक वे अनुमोदित प्रयोजनों के लिए पूरी तरह खर्च नहीं कर ली जातीं। भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा लिए गए ई०सी०बी० की मानीटरिंग क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों से मिलकर भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के केन्द्रीय कार्यालय द्वारा की जाती है।

**Vacancies in BIFR**

977. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn in the news—item 'Vacancies make BIFR Unviable' published in the "Statesmen" (Calcutta) dated 19.11.1998;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of cases registered with BIFR as on date;

(d) the zone-wise break up of the aforesaid cases; and

(e) the action taken by Government to expedite hearings in the BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware about the vacancies in the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). At present, there are three Members of BIFR in position and action has already been, initiated to fill up the remaining vacancies.

(c) and (d) As on 31.10.1998, 2381 Sick Industrial Companies were registered with BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Out of this 1722 cases have been disposed off by BIFR and remaining 659 cases are pending at various stages. Region-wise break up of pending cases as on 31.10.1998 is as follows—

| Region | No. of Companies |
|---|---|
| Northern | 190 |
| Western | 227 |
| Eastern | 92 |
| Southern | 150 |
| TOTAL | 659 |

(e) Government has initiated action to fill up the vacancies which would enable BIFR to constitute more benches and thereby expedite hearing disposal of cases.

**Payment of lower central excise duties by drug manufactures**

978. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain bulk area manufaturers like Glaxo India, Ranbaxy Laboratories and Hoechst Marion Raussel and others are selling bulk drugs at prices much below the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995 Rates and consequently paying lower Central Excise duties; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to ascertain the facts and to bring the guilty to the book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARDHANAN): (a) Yes, it is a fact that certain bulk drug manfacturers are selling bulk drugs at prices below the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995 Rates.

(b) Necessary remedial action is being taken by way of issue of show cause notices to safeguard the Government revenue and to bring the guilty to the book.